

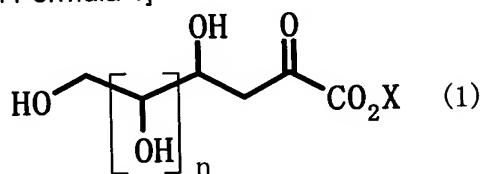
CLAIMS:

1. A method for preparing a compound represented by the general formula (4) comprising the following two steps;

a step of the reduction from a compound represented by the general formula (1) to a compound represented by the general formula (2) and/or the general formula (3), and

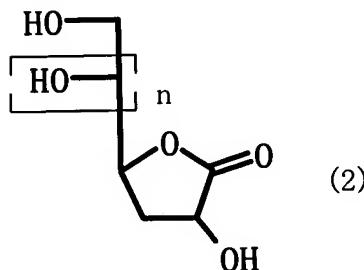
a step of the decarboxylation from a compound represented by the general formula (2) and/or the general formula (3) to a compound represented by the general formula (4),

[General Formula 1]



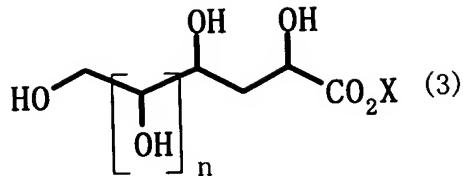
wherein X represents a hydrogen atom, an alkali metal or an alkali earth metal; and n represents 0 or 1,

[General Formula 2]



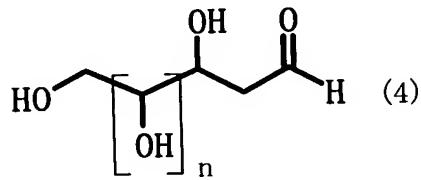
wherein n is the same as the above,

[General Formula 3]



wherein X and n are the same as the above,

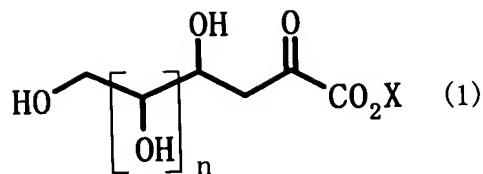
[General Formula 4]



wherein n is the same as the above.

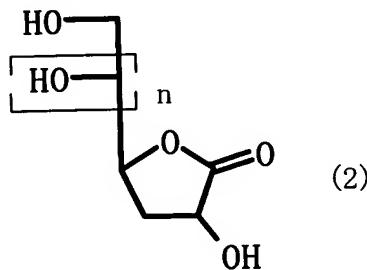
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the reduction step is carried out by the catalytic hydrogenation.
3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the reduction step is carried out using a hydride reducing agent.
4. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein both of the reduction step and the decarboxylation step are carried out in a water solvent.
5. A method of reducing a compound represented by the general formula (1) to a compound represented by the general formula (2) and/or the general formula (3) by the catalytic hydrogenation,

[General Formula 1]



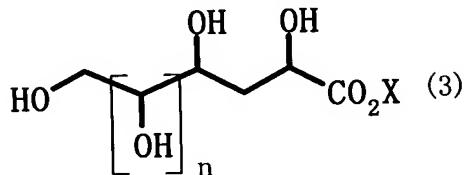
wherein X represents a hydrogen atom, an alkali metal or an alkali earth metal;
and n represents 0 or 1,

[General Formula 2]



wherein n is the same as the above,

[General Formula 3]



wherein X and n are the same as the above.

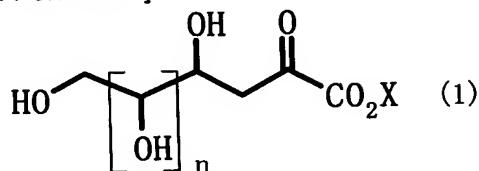
6. The method according to claim 5, wherein the catalytic hydrogenation is carried out under acidic conditions.

7. The method according to claim 6, wherein palladium loaded on an activated carbon is used for the catalytic hydrogenation.

8. A method of reducing a compound represented by the general formula (1) to a compound represented by the general formula (2) and/or (3) using a hydride reducing

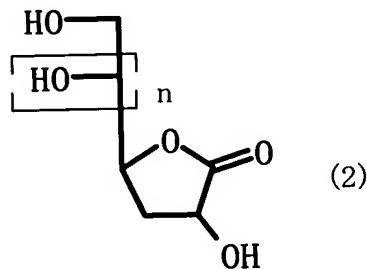
agent in a solvent of not more than 30 weight times the amount of a compound represented by the general formula (1),

[General Formula 1]



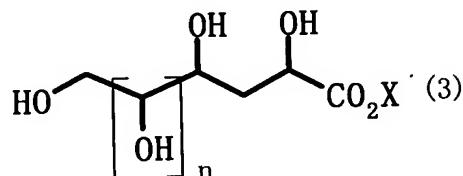
wherein X represents a hydrogen atom, an alkali metal or an alkali earth metal; and n represents 0 or 1,

[General Formula 2]



wherein n is the same as the above,

[General Formula 3]



wherein X and n are the same as the above.

9. The method according to claim 8, wherein a reducing agent is fed in a divided manner or fed by dropping and the reaction is carried out at not more than 30°C.

10. The method according to claim 8 or 9, wherein sodium borohydride is used as a reducing agent.

11. The method according to any one of claims 5 to 10, wherein the reaction is carried out in a water solvent.